GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:798
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
SMUGGLING OF GOLD AND SILVER THROUGH PARCEL WAGONS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that gold and silver are smuggled through parcel wagons in important trains;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years, State-wise/Zone-wise;

(c) whether involvement of some officers of Railways and Railway police have also been found in such smuggling cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to check this menace?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Zone-wise summary of such cases for last three years are as under:-

Railways 2004 2005 2006 2007(Upto September) Northern 06 01 - - Western 01 01 - -
The details of such cases reported during the last three years are as under :-

1. On 03.3.2004 on an information received from Army Intelligence, the Leased front brake van of 2916 Ashram Express was checked at Delhi Main Station and 886 Kilograms (Kgs.) of Silver, 73 Kilograms (Kgs.) of gold and Rs.55, 03,255/- in cash (Total worth Rs.1.77 Crores approx.) were seized by Delhi Police Special Branch with the assistance of Railway Protection Force. The case was handed over to Delhi Police for further inquiry. They have referred the case to the Income Tax Department.

2. In the 2nd case on 03.4.2004, a team of Railway Protection Force and Railway Vigilance staff detected 614 KGs. of silver valued approximately Rs. 1 (one) crore, booked as general goods and was to be loaded in the rear brake van of train No.2724 Andhra Pradesh Express at New Delhi Railway Station. The parties affected had filed the case in the Delhi High Court and the goods are being released to the parties after imposing appropriate fines under the Railways Act, after clearance from the Income Tax Department.

3. In the 3rd case, on 02.7.2004, on an information received by the Railway Vigilance, suspected packages were unloaded from the front brake van of train No.2916 Ashram Express at Delhi Main Station and 600 Kilograms of silver, 11 Kilograms of gold, Rs.41,68,330/- in cash and precious stones worth Rs.65,000/-, totally valued at Rs.1.5 crore were seized. The case was handed over to Government Railway Police / Delhi Main who have registered a case vide crime No.38/04 under section 420, 406, 34 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 163 of the Railways Act, 1989 with the arrest of one accused. The case is under trial.

4. In the 04th case, on 01.8.2004 the Leased brake van of 2952 Mumbai Rajdhani Exp. was checked by Railway Protection Force / New Delhi and gold and silver weighing 605 KGs. and currency Notes of Rs.1000 denominations totally valued Rs. 1 (one) crore were seized.

5. From the above said same train, on 02.8.2004, on arrival at Mumbai Central, 02 more packages containing approximately 250 Kilograms of silver, valued approximately Rs.12,10,000/- were seized. All these valuable items were declared as general goods. Cases under the Railways Act, 1989 were registered against 03 accused at New Delhi station and they were convicted with fines. The case against 02 accused registered under the Railways Act in Mumbai is under trial.

6 . On 18.9.2004, RPF/Delhi Main seized Gold and Silver jewelry valued Rs.3,90,000/- from leased front SLR of train No.9105 Ahmedabad Mail at Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his five associates. In this connection, RPF/Delhi Main registered a case vide crime No.59/04 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 19.9.2004 against the above accused persons. The five associates were fined Rs.500/- each and the seized property was handed over to the owner on 5.11.2004 as per order of the Court. The case is under trial.

7 . On 18.12.2004, RPF/New Delhi seized 212 Kgs. Gold and Silver jewelry valued Rs.15,00,000/- from leased rear SLR of train No.2724 A.P. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his two associates. In this connection, RPF/ New Delhi registered a case vide crime No.297/04 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 18.12.2004 against the above accused persons. The

case is under trial.

8 . On 19.10.2005, Chief Parcel Supervisor/Indore informed to Inspector / RPF / Indore by return memo that the railway marka 384337/05 Gunny pack cartoons are suspected. After receiving the memo in presence of Sub-Inspector/RPF, Chief Parcel Supervisor, Party and before two panchas, all the gunny pack cartoons were opened and 225.4 kgs. Silver found from the cartoons. It is a case of false declaration. A case vide Crime No.01/05 Under Section 163 of the Railway Act dated 19.10.2005 was registered and accused was produced before the Hon'ble Railway Court/Indore where accused was fined Rs.1500/-.

9. On 19.12.2005, RPF/ New Delhi seized 285 Kgs. Gold and Silver jewelry valued Rs.45,00,000/- from a leased rear SLR of train No.2615 G.T. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested the lease holder. In this connection, RPF/New Delhi registered a case vide crime No.1029/05 U/S 163 of the Railways Act dated 19.12.2005 against an accused person. The case is under trial.

(c) & (d) : No evidence of involvement of Officers of Railways and Railway Police was found in any of the above mentioned cases.

(e): The Railways have been asked to take the following preventive measures:-

1. The Lease Holders are asked to furnish a certificate that no illegal goods are being transported in the leased Second Class Luggage Brake Van.

2. Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force and Commercial Staff have been advised to gear up intelligence in a coordinated manner and keep a close watch on movements of suspicious characters in the Station area.

3. To avoid recurrence of such incidents, surprise checks are conducted by the Railways.